

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BRUSSE 11855 151654Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 ICAE-00  
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00  
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03  
TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 /077 W  
-----077933 151702Z /47

O 151645Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7302

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION USNATO

USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 11855

LONDON FOR AMBASSADOR CHAMBERS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, BE

SUBJECT: BELGIAN GOVERNMENT CRISIS, TINDEMANS SUBMITS  
RESIGNATION

REFS: A) DE TARR/NEWLIN TELECONS, B) BRUSSELS 11342,  
C) BRUSSELS A-25

1. MEETING THROUGH THE NIGHT OF JUNE 14-15, THE  
BELGIAN COUNCIL OF MINISTERS FAILED TO AGREE ON THE ANTI-  
CRISIS PROPOSALS REPORTED REF B. AS THE MEETING AD-  
JOURNED AT 0730 JUNE 15, PRIME MINISTER TINDEMANS TOLD  
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PAGE 02 BRUSSE 11855 151654Z

JOURNALISTS THAT THERE WAS NO AGREEMENT, AND THAT NO  
FURTHER CABINET MEETINGS WERE PLANNED. AT A MID-DAY  
MEETING WITH KING BAUDOUIN LATER THE SAME DAY TINDEMANS  
SUBMITTED HIS GOVERNMENT'S RESIGNATION. THE KING HAS  
DECIDED TO HOLD THE RESIGNATION "IN SUSPENSE", NEITHER  
ACCEPTING NOR REJECTING IT.

2. THE PROBLEM WHICH PRECIPITATED THE CRISIS RESULTED FROM A FUNDAMENTAL SOCIALIST OPPOSITION TO BUDGET CUTS. THE IMPASSE STEMMED, MORE IMMEDIATELY, FROM DISAGREEMENT ON THREE MAIN POINTS:

A) REFUSAL BY THE CVP - LED BY SECRETARY OF STATE FOR BUDGET MARC EYSKENS - TO AGREE TO AN FDF/SOCIALIST-

SPONSORED MOVE TO LINK UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION AND HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS WITH IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FIRST PHASE OF THE EGMONT-STUYVENBERG COMMUNITY ACCORDS (REF C). IN THE ABSENCE OF AN AGREED TEXT ON REGIONALIZATION, THE SOCIAL CHRISTIANS SAW THIS AS TANTAMOUNT TO AN INDEFINITE SUSPENSION OF ACTION ON HEALTH CARE AND UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION REFORM.

B) LACK OF AGREEMENT ON A BID BY EYSKENS TO EXTEND ACTION UNDER THE SPECIAL POWERS PROVISION (REF B) TO FORMULATION OF THE 1979 BUDGET, AN INITIATIVE STRONGLY OPPOSED BY THE SOCIALISTS.

C) REFUSAL BY THE SOCIALISTS TO ACCEPT BUDGETARY LIMITATIONS ON SOCIAL SECURITY PROGRAMS.

3. WHEN QUERIED AS CRISIS WAS BREAKING, TINDEMANS' CHEF DE CABINET (JAN GRAULS) TOLD US THAT THE PRIME MINISTER FELT THAT HIS GOVERNMENT COULD NOT CONTINUE IN CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BRUSSE 11855 151654Z

THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES AND THAT HE WOULD SUBMIT HIS RESIGNATION. PREDICTING CORRECTLY THAT KING WOULD HOLD DECISION IN ABEYANCE, GRAULS WENT ON TO SAY THAT NEXT STEP WOULD BE A MEETING OF PARTY PRESIDENTS, SUGGESTING THAT THERE YET REMAINS ROOM FOR FURTHER NEGOTIATION - VU PRESIDENT SCHILTZ HAS ALSO MADE THIS POINT. GRAULS ADDED POINTEDLY THAT THE SUMMER VACATION PERIOD IS "NO TIME FOR A CRISIS IN BELGIUM". GIVEN THE ADDITIONAL FACT THAT THERE APPEARS TO BE NO PRACTICAL ALTERNATIVE TO A COALITION INCLUDING SOCIALISTS AND SOCIAL CHRISTIANS, IT MAY BE THAT LEO TINDEMANS' SECOND GOVERNMENT - NOW JUST A YEAR OLD - MAY HAVE SOME LIFE LEFT IN IT YET. DE TARR

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CABINET, POLITICAL SITUATION, PERSONNEL RESIGNATIONS  
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**Draft Date:** 15 jun 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Review Markings:**  
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